

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling usage of a portable digital device having at least one of an audio recording function and an image data recording function, the method including:

determining based on a comparison of geographic coordinates whether the portable digital device is within a specific geographic region around another portable digital device; and

inhibiting operation of said digital device upon receipt of a first inhibiting signal transmitted by said another portable digital device when said portable digital device is located in said specific geographic region around said another portable digital device.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving a second inhibiting signal having a transmission originating from a fixed location security station in the specific geographic region, and disabling at least one of the audio and image data recording function of the portable digital device in response to receipt of the first or second inhibiting signal.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said portable digital device is configured so that when said device is outside the specific geographic region, said at least one of the audio and image data recording function is functional.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein at least one portable device is used as a repeater to broaden coverage of the second inhibiting signal transmitted by said fixed location security station.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inhibiting includes inhibiting operation of said at least one of said audio recording and image data recording function of said portable digital device when said portable digital device is in the specific geographic region.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, further comprising monitoring [[the]] a geographic ~~region~~ location of the portable digital device using a navigation module selected from the group: GPS, GSM, GPRS, MA, UTMS and 3G.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, further comprising monitoring [[the]] a geographic location of the portable digital device by triangulation of signals from at least two cellular base stations.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including storing data relating to said device being detected as being present in the specific geographic region.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said operation is inhibited for a predetermined period of time before the operation can be enabled again.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the portable digital device has a memory and wherein the method further comprises:

modifying the memory of the portable digital device to indicate that the inhibiting operation has occurred, and

checking whether the memory has been modified to indicate that the inhibiting operation has occurred before allowing access to the data recording function.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the first inhibiting signal is received at the portable digital device using a communication scheme transmitting over at least one radio frequency, the communication scheme selected from the group supported by GSM, GPRS, 3G, I- Mode, UTMS, Ultrawideband (UWB) wireless data standard and/or CDMA.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one frequency used to transmit the first inhibiting signal is changed at intervals to improve security.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first inhibiting signal is communicated to the portable digital device the form of an audio signal or a signal transmitted at an optical frequency.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including installing usage control code on the device for performing the control of usage of the device.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the usage control code is installed in a memory within the device.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including modifying code within the device relating to the at least one of an audio recording function and an image data recording function and preventing said code from being executed by the device.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including:
detecting disconnection of the device from a communications network, and
preventing one of modifying a normal store operation and a normal transmission operation relating to captured data upon detecting the device has been disconnected from the communications network.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including:
detecting an attempted operation of said data recording function when said portable digital device is located in the specific geographic region, and
preventing a normal store operation relating to data captured by the data recording function.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, further including deleting the captured data from the device.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, further including transmitting the captured data relating to the device to a security entity.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, further including broadcasting a source-identifying signal to the specific geographical region.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the source-identifying signal comprises an audio tone or a series of optical signals.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, further including checking if data transmitted over a network includes a recording of the source-identifying signal, and transmitting the data to a security entity instead of an intended recipient.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a security station is fitted on board a vehicle, said security station broadcasting/transmitting an inhibiting or disabling signal intermittently in the specific geographic region, and at least one function of the portable digital device being disabled on receipt of the signal.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling transmission of data over a communications network, the method comprising:

a first portable digital device detecting an attempted transmission of data including a source-identifying signal broadcast by a second portable digital device in a specific geographic region around said first portable digital device, and

the first portable digital device sending an inhibiting signal to the second portable digital device to inhibit the attempted transmission of data including the source-identifying signal by said second portable digital device when it is determined based on a comparison of geographic coordinates that said second portable digital device is located in said specific geographic region around said first portable digital device.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A method for capturing security information relating to a portable digital device which includes an imaging function, said method comprising enabling operation of said imaging function in response to an interrogation or enabling signal from a central station and returning an image to said central station in response to said interrogation or enabling signal.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions for controlling a portable digital device including the function of recording at least one of audio and visual imaging data, said instructions comprising:

computer executable instructions for determining based on a comparison of geographic coordinates when said portable digital device is located in a predetermined geographic region around another portable digital device; and

computer executable instructions for inhibiting operation of said audio recording/imaging device when said device receives an inhibiting signal transmitted by said another portable digital device and said portable digital device is determined to be located in said predetermined geographic region.

36. (Canceled)

37. (New) A system of controlling usage of an inhibited portable digital device having at least one of an audio recording function and an image data recording function, the

system including:

- an inhibiting portable digital device that transmits an inhibiting signal; and

- an inhibiting module that determines based on a comparison of geographic coordinates whether the inhibited portable digital device is within a specific geographic region around said inhibiting portable digital device, and inhibits operation of said inhibited portable digital device upon receipt of the inhibiting signal transmitted by said inhibiting portable digital device when said inhibited portable digital device is located in said specific geographic region around said inhibiting portable digital device.